



Developed with Linda Roberts

# Fossil identification puzzles

Volume 18 | Gr. 4-8



## Objectives:

*Students will...*

- Develop an understanding of fossils and their adaptation to the environment at that period of time
- Be able to identify fossil types and where they lived

## Materials list

- Reference Books with Clear Pictures of Assorted Fossils
- Reversible Quad-Ruled Wireless Notebook (TB26495)
- 8½" x 11" Paper, pkg. of 500 sheets (9733119)



## Teacher prep

Enlarge 5 or more fossil pictures so each fits on an 8½" x 11" sheet of paper. Make enough copies for each group. Cut the pictures into 5 or 6 puzzle-shaped pieces. For each group, mix 5 fossil picture puzzles together.

## Activity

- The students will look at the details of the fossils' characteristics to reassemble the fossils. Using reference books, the students will identify the name and time period for each of their fossils.
- Attach the assembled fossil to a page in the notebook and add its name and the time period in which it lived.
- List 3 physical characteristics for each fossil and where it lived (in the ocean, on land, etc.)

## Discussion

Share the name and time period for each of the fossils. How were you able to put together the complete picture?

**Q:** How do scientists identify fossils?

**A:** They look at the physical characteristics of the fossil as well as where it was found and its relationship to other fossils in the same area.

**Q:** Would you be able to identify the fossil if you had only 2 or 3 puzzle pieces?

# Check out these other great products



## Nasco Fossil Molds Set

Soft, flexible molds are durable and create exact fossil replicas. Fossils include a fish from 40 million years ago; a gastropod (stomach-foot) from 65 million years ago; a cephalopod (head-foot) from 100 million years ago; a pectopteris (seed-fern), annularia (scouring-rush), neuropteris (seed-fern with bladelike leaf), and a lepidodendron (scale-tree) from 300 million years ago; a crinoid (lily-form), brachiopod (arm-foot), and bryozoa (moss-animal) from 450 million years ago; a horn coral from 400 million years ago; and a trilobite (three-lobe) from 500 million years ago. Set includes six soft, flexible molds, 5 lbs. casting plaster, and complete molding instructions.

**SA04671**

**Nasco Casting Plaster.** 5-lb. package.  
9730282



## Nasco Fossils Paper Casting Classroom Kit

Kids are fascinated by fossils! Now, using this kit, they can create their own inexpensive paper casts of 12 different fossils, decorate them with markers, and then use the reference guide to determine which animal the fossil represents and learn interesting facts about it. Kit includes six molds to mold a total of 12 different fossils, three spray bottles, 18 washable tempera paint markers (three each of six colors), three Eyewitness Fossil books, and activity guide.

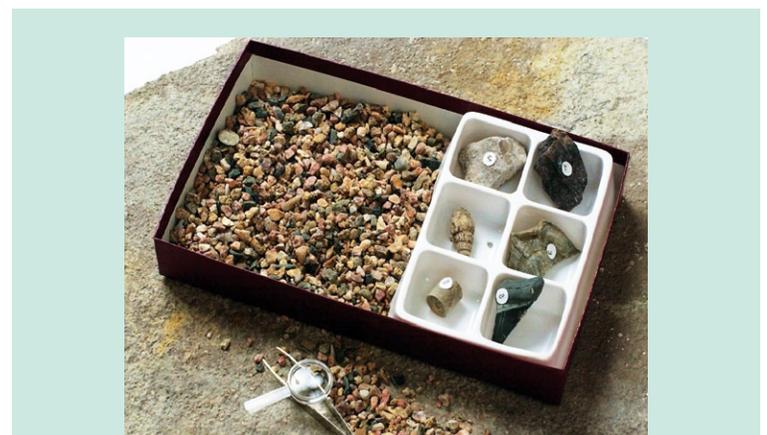
**SB44733**



## Nasco Fossil Collection

Vertebrate and invertebrate fossils from the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic eras are included. 15 numbered specimens.

**SB10961**



## Nasco Fossil Hunt Kit

Students learn to identify different fossils after digging them out of a gravel mixture. 1-lb. bag of gravel mixture with 12 real fossils (2 each of 6 types) and corresponding large identified specimens, magnifier, forceps, and teacher's guide in storage box.

**SB33401**